

American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists

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November 17, 2003

The Honorable Bill Frist  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
461 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Frist:

The American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists (AACE), representing over 4,400 clinical endocrinologists throughout the United States, is pleased to express our support for the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act and the bipartisan agreement on legislation that would begin correcting the flawed payment formula and preserve access to endocrinologists caring for Medicare patients often with multiple complex endocrine disorders.

The summary of the agreement that has been released represents great progress by blocking the cut in physician payments and providing an increase for 2004 and 2005, prescription drug coverage to seniors, diminishing the disparity in payments between rural and urban areas, relief from unnecessary Medicare regulatory burdens and flexibility and assistance in the use of electronic prescription technology. AACE believes Congress should pass the conference agreement and we look forward to working with Congress to improve medical services for seniors.

AACE is grateful for your efforts on behalf of our patients and we who serve them and we firmly agree with the final passage of the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act.

Sincerely,

Donald Bergman, MD, FACE  
FACE, Chair

Richard Hellman, MD, FACP,

President of AACE  
Regulatory Committee

Legislative and

cc: Dawn Robinson, American Medical Association  
Donald C. Jones, CEO  
Jay Millson, Deputy CEO